2008 for which the selection process is going on, following provisions have been kept by the State Government to encourage appointment of SC and ST categories.

(i) The eligibility condition relating to education qualification of 'Matriculation' may be relaxed in case of SC & ST candidates.

(ii) Preference will be given to candidates from ST categories in the blocks falling in Integrated Tribal Development Agency areas and to members of Primitive Tribal Groups in micro project areas.

Winding up the PDS

1212. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to wind up public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on the procurement prices of foodgrains and role of Central warehouses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Death due to starvation

1213. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases of death due to starvation have been reported from various parts of the country and even in National Capital during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to provide foodgrains to the affected families in the country in order to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No incident of starvation death has been reported by any State/Union Territory including National Capital so far.

(c) For maintaining food security in the country, the Government is allocating foodgrains at subsidized rates for people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty line (APL) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). While allocations of rice and wheat for the BPL and AAY families are made @ 35 kg. per family per month, for the APL families the allocations are made depending upon offtake in previous years and in quantities which can be accommodated in the Central pool.

In addition, the Department allocates foodgrains for the following Welfare Schemes at BPL issue prices;

(i) Mid day Meal, (administered by Ministry of Human Resource Development).

(ii) Wheat Based Nutrition Programme and Nutritional Programme for Adolescent girls (administered by Ministry of Women and Child Development).

(iii) Sampoorana Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and special Component of SGRY (administered by Ministry of Rural Development).

(iv) Emergency Feeding Programme for KBK Districts of Orissa (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(v) Annapurana Scheme (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(vi) Scheme for hostels and Welfare Institutions to help the shelterless/homeless poor and other categories not covered under TPDS.

(vii) Scheme for SC/ST/OBC Hostels to provide foodgrains for all the residents student in these Hostels.

(viii) Village Grain Banks Scheme to cover vulnerable poeple in chronically food scarce areas. (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

Daily wage workers in FCI

†1214. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the daily wagers working in the Food Corporation of India for the last more than 15 years, have not been regularized;

(b) if so, whether Government would issue any guidelines to FCI for improving the pitiable condition of these labourers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The food handling operations in various depots of FCI are being done either by regular labour or by contractor's labour. There is no provision for employment of casual labour in the depots in which departmental or Direct Payment System (DPS) labour is working. However, as per understanding reached with FCI Workers Union on 6.11.1997, 103 casual labourers have been deployed in FCI Godowns at Bareilly, UP. The said casual labourers could not be taken as Direct Payment System labour as they were not found eligible for the same. However they were allowed to work as casual labour on need basis and are paid minimum guaranteed wages whenever engaged. Since the labour is already surplus in the Corporation, the question of regularization is not viable in the present circumstances.

Difference between consumer and producer's sale price

†1215. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.